

What's at Stake - Landscape Habitat Goals for Massachusetts & Key Sites for Habitat Management



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Protecting our Investment in Wildlife Diversity
New Tools for Wildlife Habitat Management on Public and Private Lands
Westborough, MA
October 24, 2015


Habitat Management on MassWildlife Lands

- Mandate: Perpetuate biological diversity
- Habitat Management Goal: Provide a range of forested and non-forested conditions, to conserve the biological diversity of species, communities, and ecosystems.



Scientific Literature Review

- Development has disrupted natural disturbance processes.
- Many species prefer large habitat patches.

 **The Auk**

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Conservation Biology



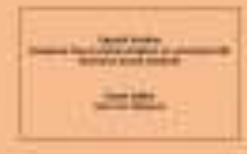
**Ecology and Management of
Scrub-shrub Birds in New England:
A Comprehensive Review**



Submitted to the USDA Natural
Resources Conservation Service
Resource Inventory and
Assessment Division, August
30, 2007

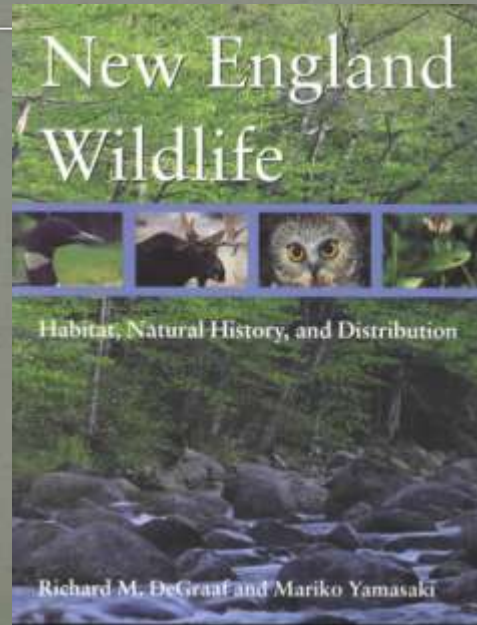
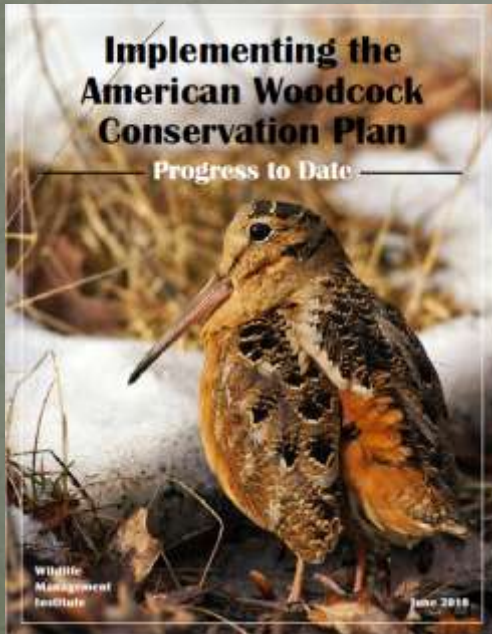


**Forest Ecology
and Management**



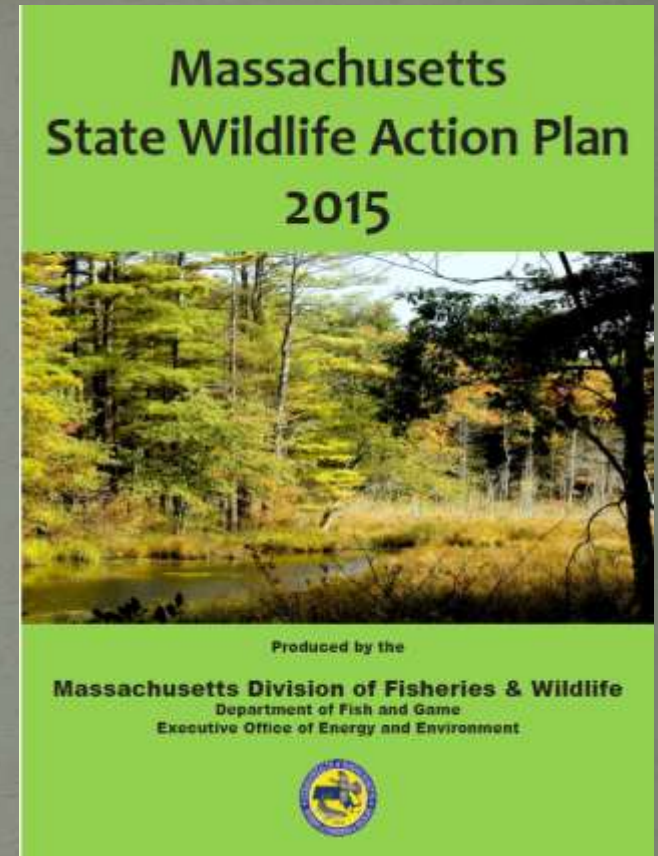
Habitat Recommendations

- Partners in Flight & MassAudubon
- New England Wildlife
- WMI American Woodcock Initiative
- RGS Ruffed Grouse Conservation Plan
- New England Cottontail Conservation Plan



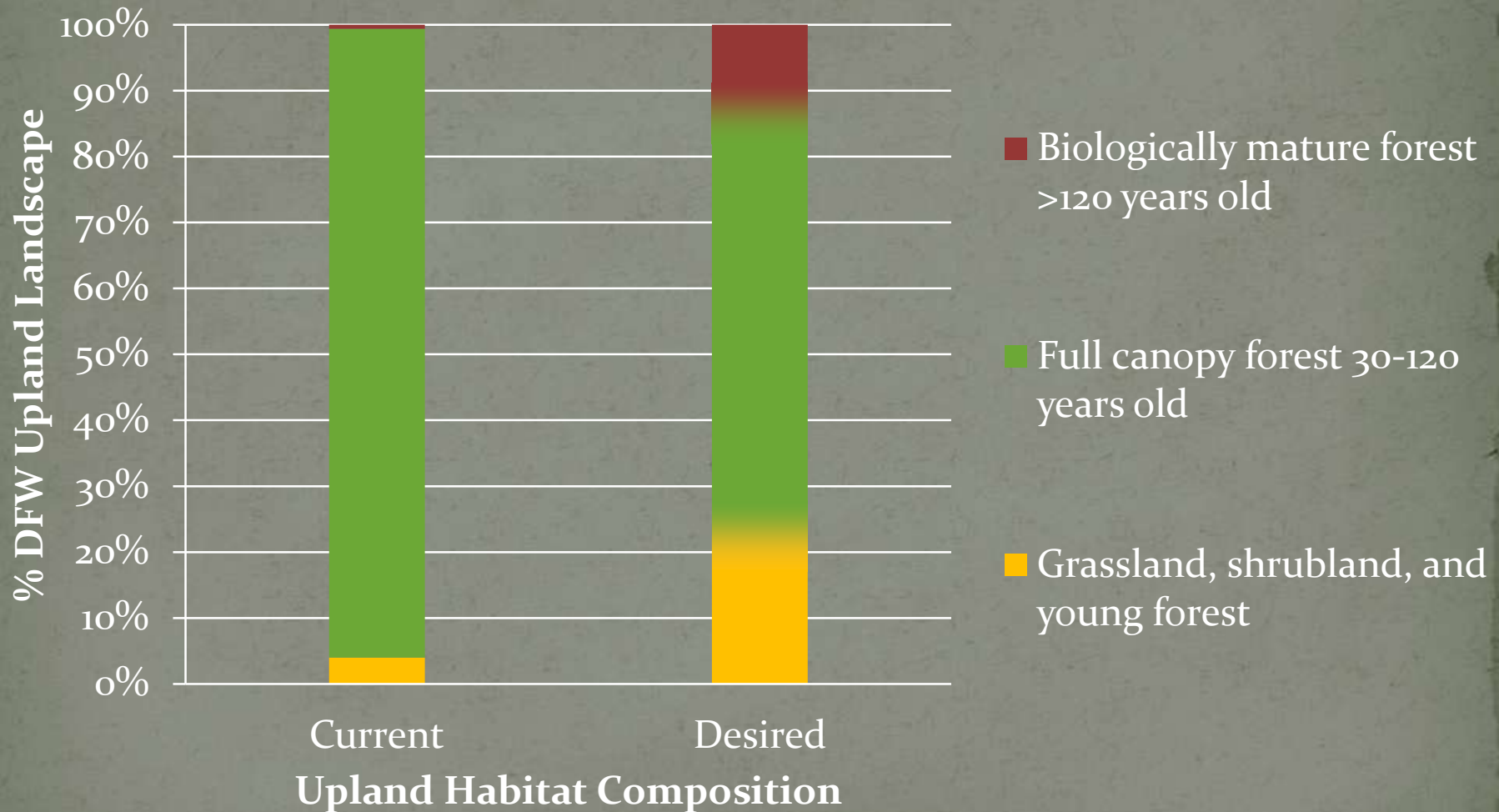
State Wildlife Action Plan, 2015

- Identifies species and habitat types of greatest conservation need
- Science-based, peer-reviewed literature and Massachusetts data
- Broad public involvement in process
- Proactive - keep common species common while managing to prevent rare species listings



<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/wildlife-habitat-conservation/state-wildlife-conservation-strategy.html>

MassWildlife Landscape Habitat Goals



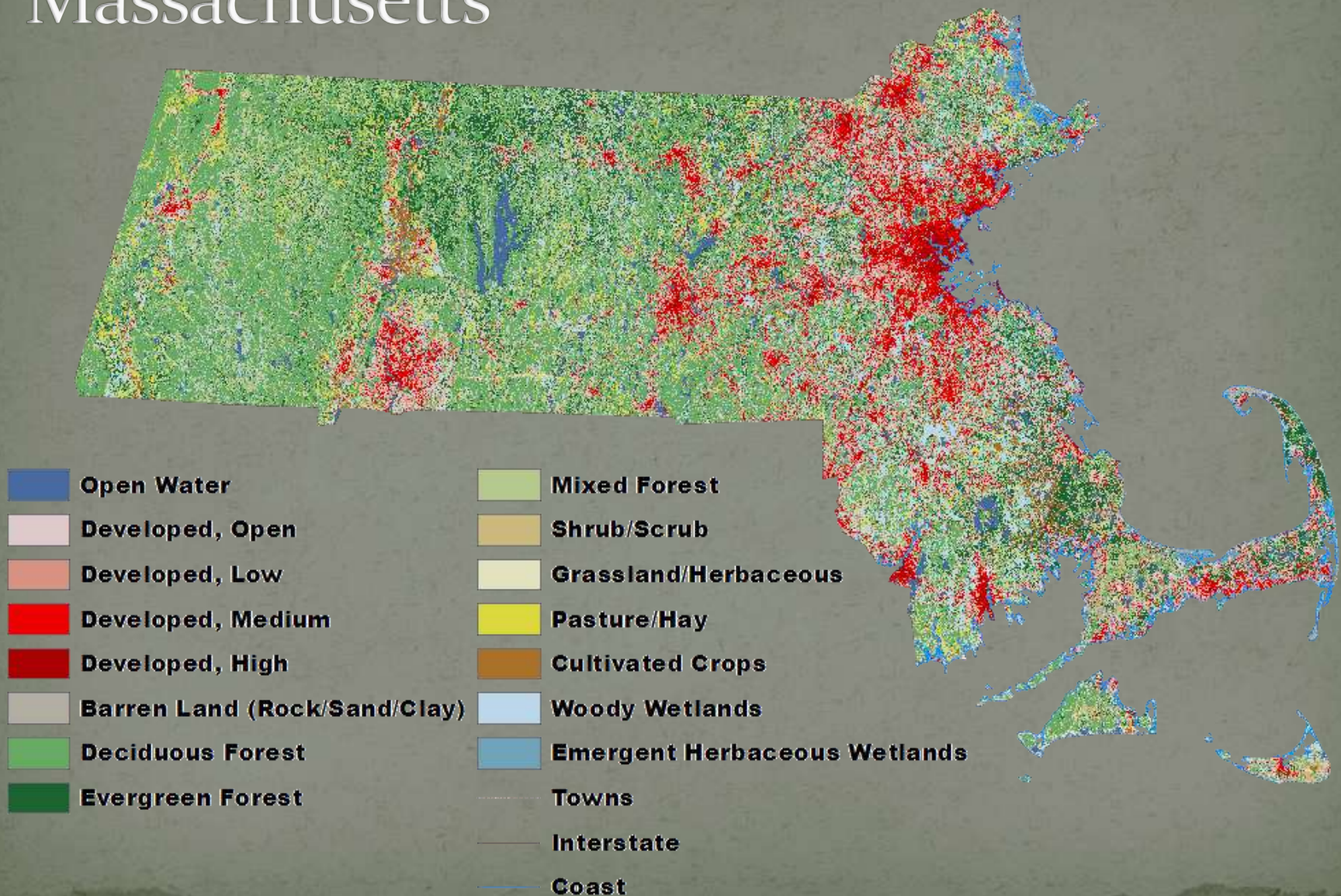
Current vs. Desired Habitats on MassWildlife Lands

Habitat Type	Current %	Desired Minimum %	Desired Maximum %	Management Interval
Grassland	0.5%	1%	2%	1-2 years
Shrubland	1%	6%	8%	3-8 years
Young Forest	4%	13%	15%	20-30 years
Total	6%	20%	25%	

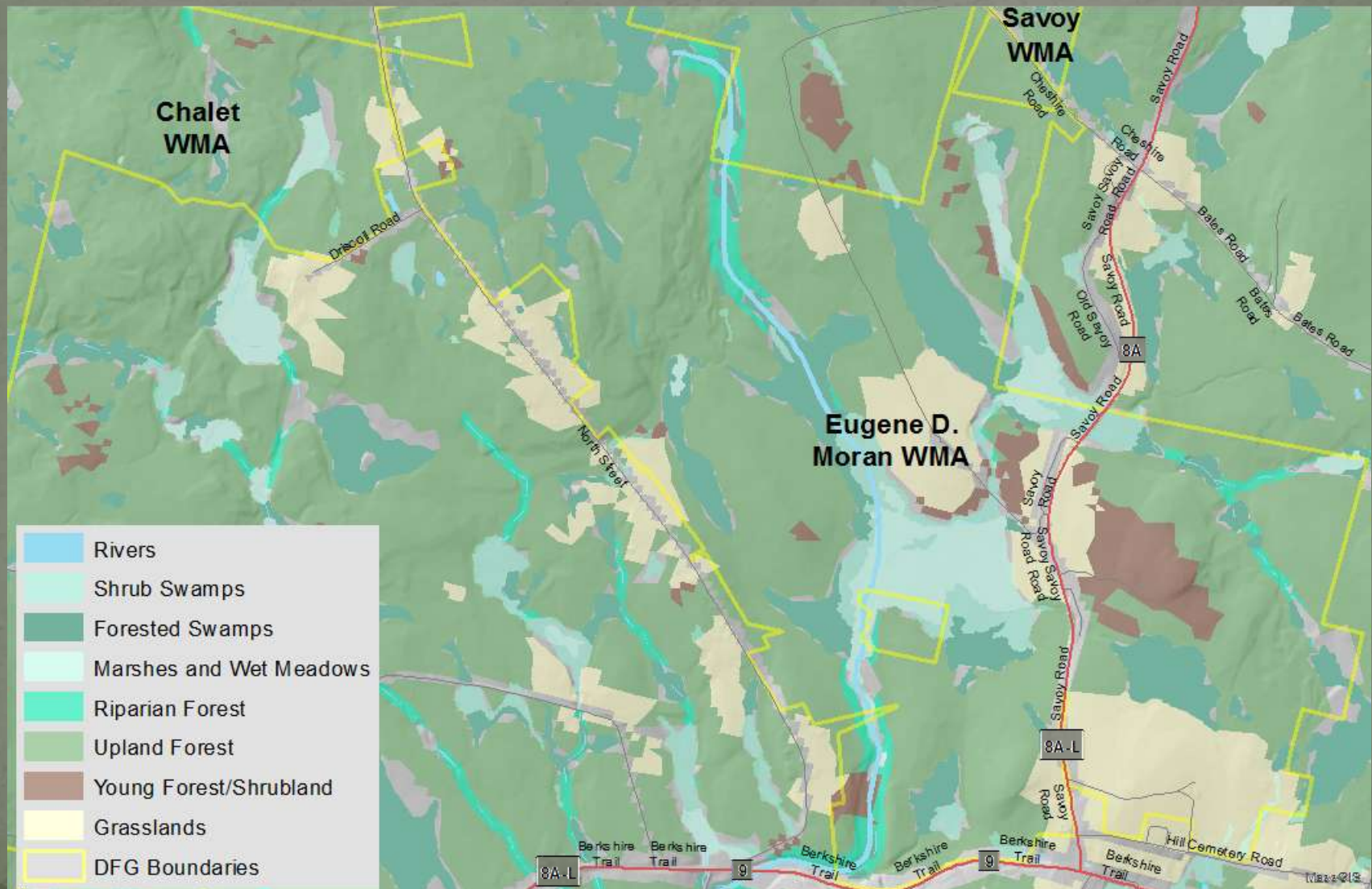
Habitat Management Practices



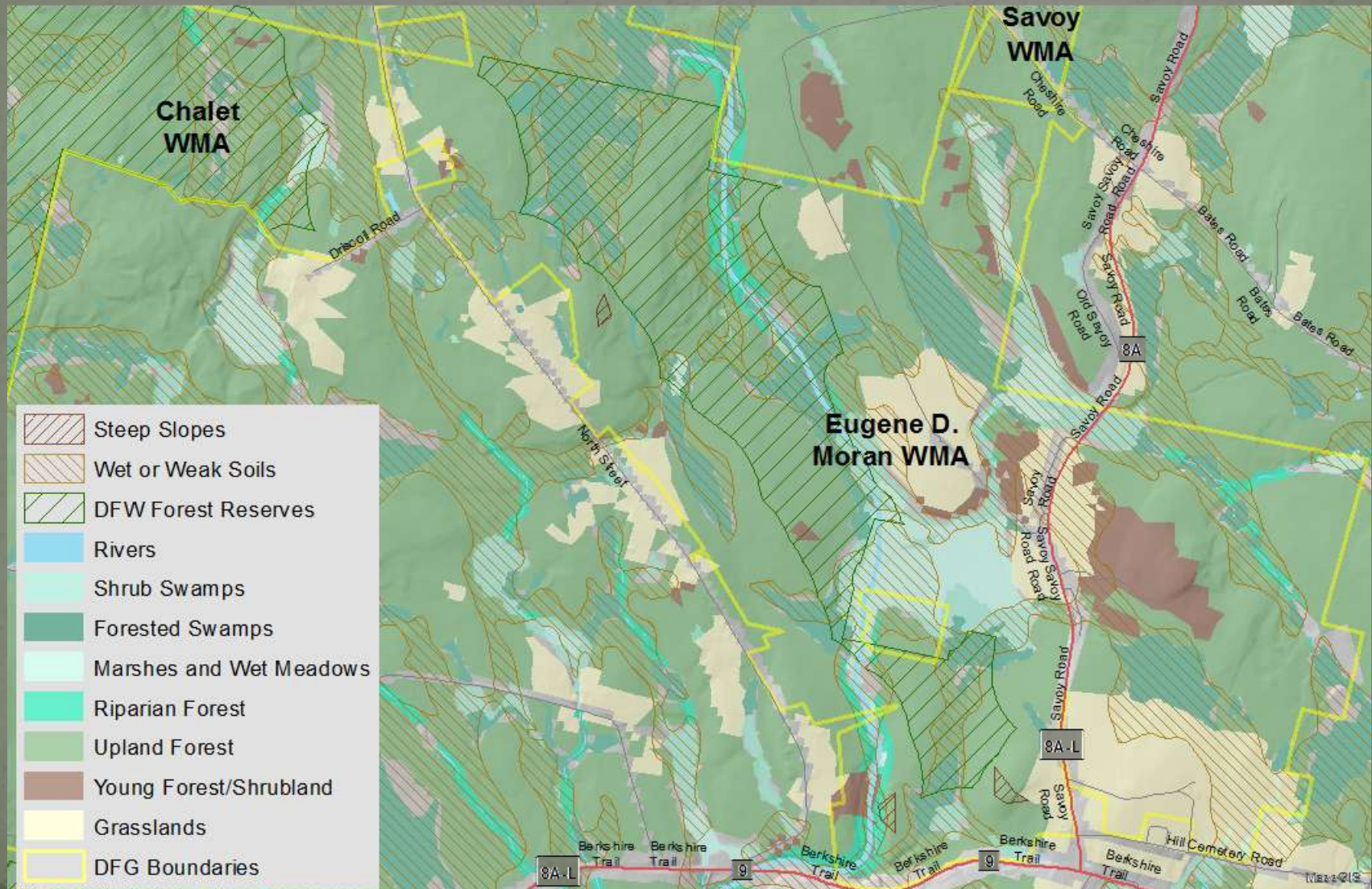
National Land Cover Database 2011 Massachusetts



Existing SWAP Habitats, Eugene D. Moran WMA



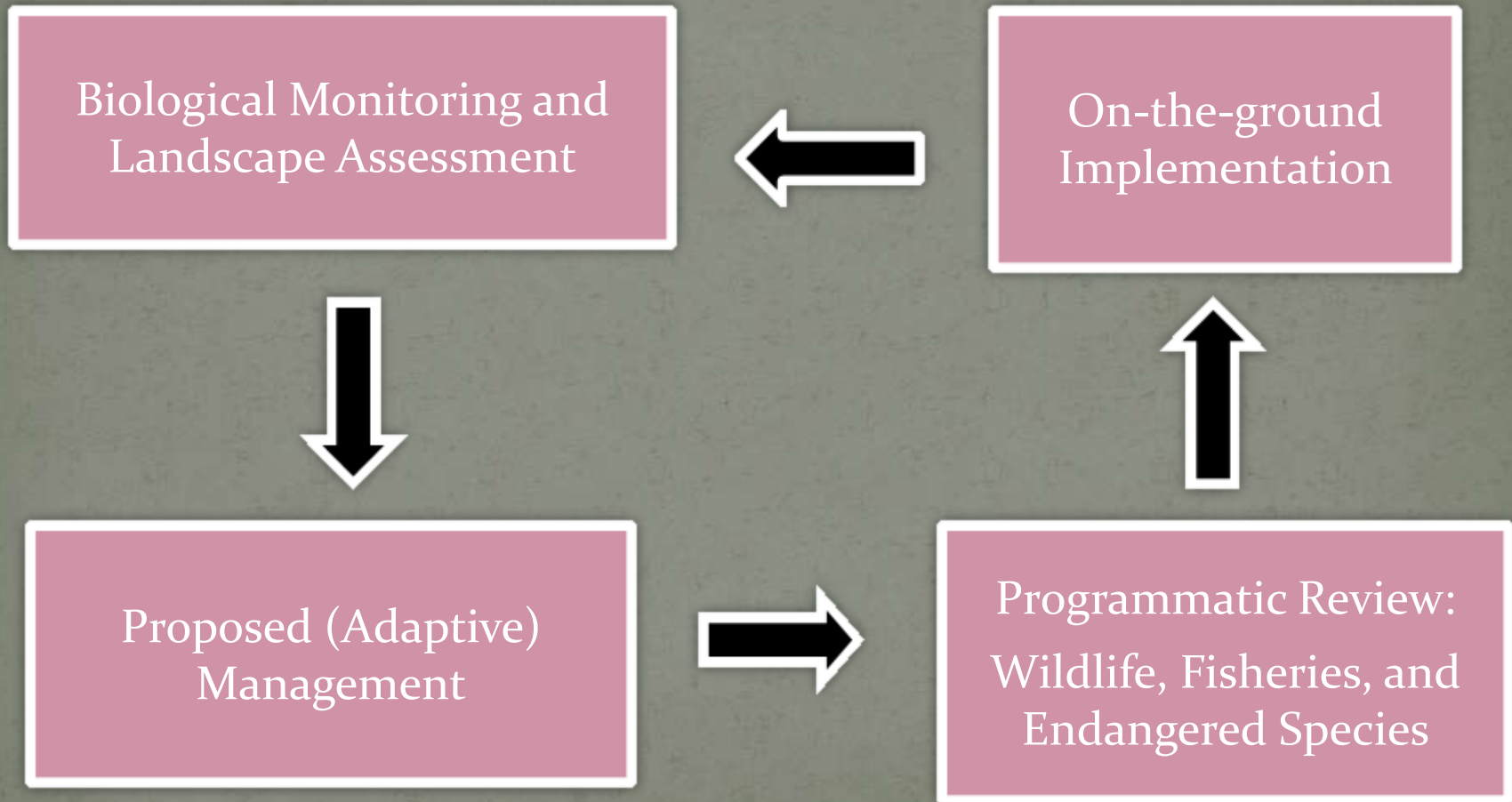
Existing SWAP Habitats and restrictions, Eugene D. Moran WMA



Existing SWAP Habitats and restrictions, Eugene D. Moran WMA



Integrated Decision-Making



Key Sites:

Our Most *Imperiled* Plants & Animals Often Require *Active Management*

Barrens & Sandplain Grasslands



Coastal Plain Ponds



Coastal Systems



Calcareous Wetlands



Aquatic Systems



Beyond *BioMap2*: Key Sites

Setting State-wide Priorities for

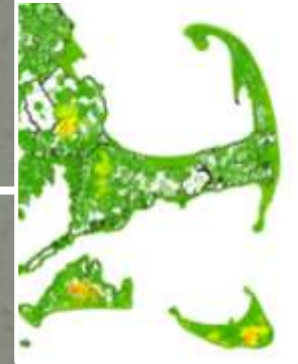
Habitat Management & Land Protection

Building on BioMap2:
What are the most
important remaining sites
for conservation?

Rare Species “*Hotspots*” –
many MESA-listed species

Best occurrences of highest priority species
and nat. communities

High Diversity Forest Cores
(Climate Change)



N.E. Boneset
Globally Rare, G1

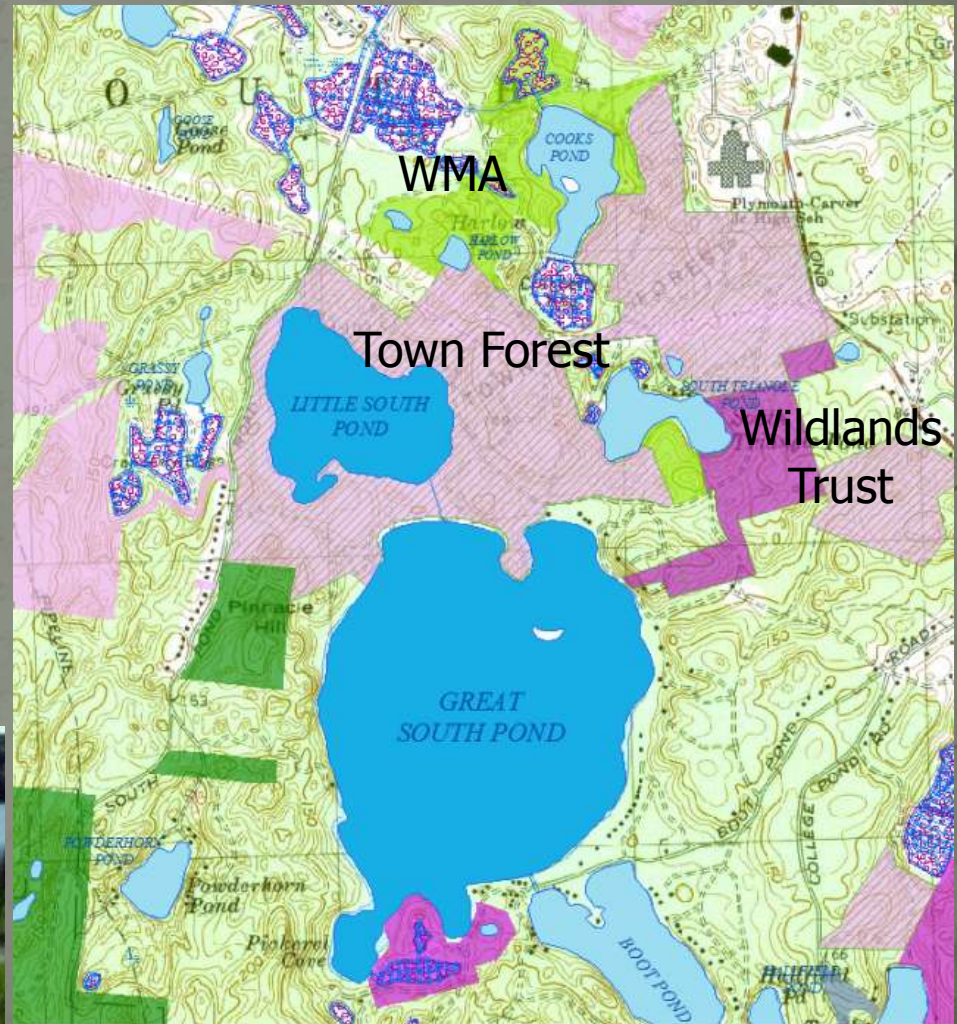
Key Sites & MassWildlife Landscape Habitat Goals

- Unified strategy for managing wildlife & plant diversity
- Game and non-game species
- Key Sites helps refine *where* we work to meet landscape goals



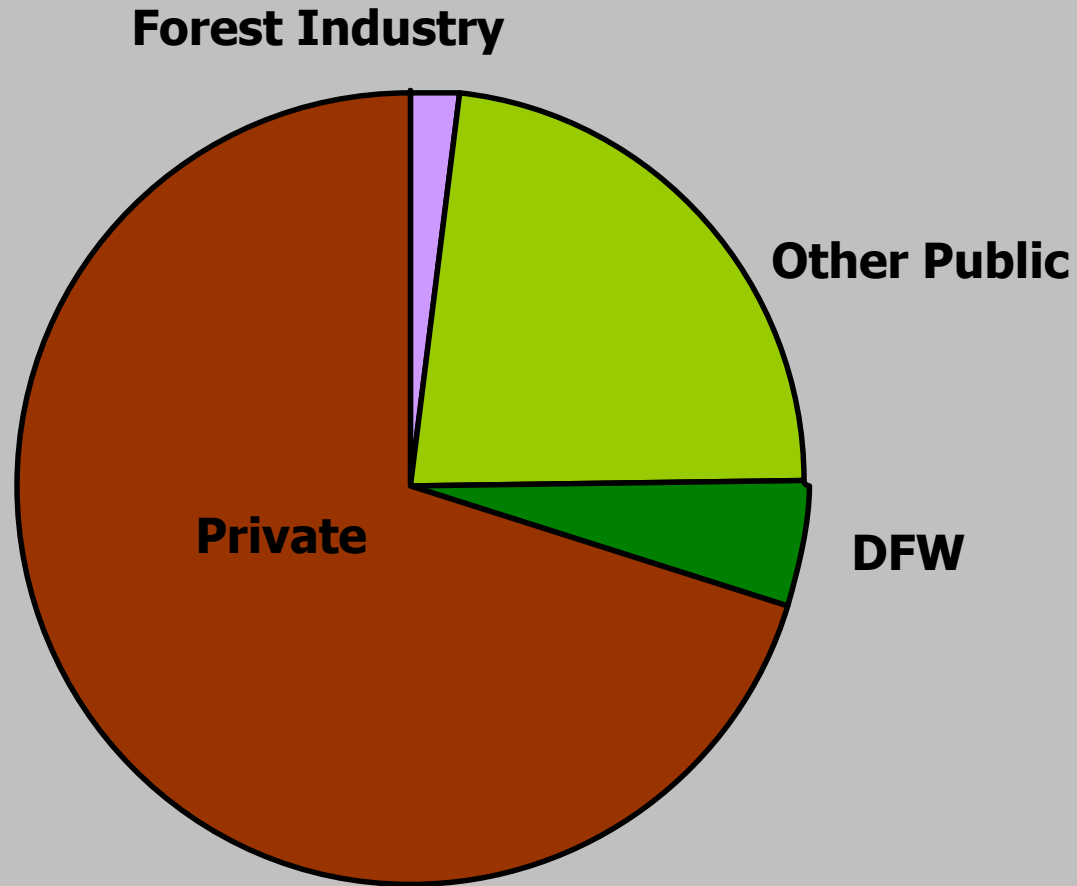
Key Sites & MassWildlife Landscape Habitat Goals

- We can't do it alone!
- Managing Massachusetts landscapes for future generations
- Partnership & collaboration



Massachusetts Forestland Ownership

3.2 Million Acres



Key Sites & MassWildlife Landscape Habitat Goals

- Habitat for wildlife
- People –
Communities –
Landscapes

Bristol Aggie
students helping to
restore Penikese
Island



**Bristol Aggie NRM Recognized
by the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs**



Native asters and goldenrods grown for this Penikese Restoration Project.



Bristol Aggie NRM students receiving instruction from Carolyn Mostello, Coastal Waterbird Biologist for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.



Key Sites & MassWildlife Landscape Habitat Goals

- Habitat for wildlife
- People –
Communities –
Landscapes

Landowner who
restored grassland
habitat conferring
with his neighbor



Key Sites & MassWildlife Landscape Habitat Goals

- Habitat for wildlife
- People –
Communities –
Landscapes

MassDOT &
MassWildlife staff
working together to
restore roadside
rare species habitat



Key Sites & MassWildlife Landscape Habitat Goals

- Habitat for wildlife
- People –
Communities –
Landscapes

Boy Scouts
building
Kestrel boxes



Key Sites & MassWildlife Landscape Habitat Goals

- Habitat for wildlife
- People –
Communities –
Landscapes

MassWildlife & DCR
working together
on a
prescribed burn



Key Sites & MassWildlife Landscape Habitat Goals

- Habitat for wildlife

- People –
Communities –
Landscapes

Landowners &
government officials
meeting to discuss
Funding opportunities
for habitat
management projects



Questions?

